THE Louis Tracy

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CHAPTER XIII.

BEFORE THE DAWN

him on the sick list.

of food. It was not within the realm of accomplishment that the pursur Constance, Enid, and others who helped to apportion the eatables could treat all alike. Some fared bette than others in quality if not in quan tity. The unfortunate ones growled and talked of favoritism.

A crisis was reached when second officer mustered the night

When one sheep leads the others will follow. A stout German from Chicago asked bluntly: "Vere's de goot of blayin' at mound

in' gart? Dere is but von ting to gart, und dat is der kidchen." Community of interest caused many

to huddle closer to him. Here was one who dared to say what they all thought. Their feet shufffled in support. The officer, faithful to his trust was tempted to fell the man, but he thought the circumstances warranted more gentle methods.

gine that you are being cheated by days." people who are dividing their last crust with you?"

keep us going several more days, compliment. Can't you figure it out? Isn't it a miracle? Here! Who's for guard as properly classed." and who not? Let us quit fooling." And the doubters were silenced for

the hour. The hymn-singer endeavored to raise a chorus. He was not greeted with nthusiasm, but a few valiant spirits ame to his assistance. A couple of ymns were feebly rendered-and gain-silence.

"Say when," observed Pyne calmly when he entered the service-room to find Brand trimming the spare lamp.

at any moment downstairs." "What has occurred? I heard some suppose he's tired of being alone."

nustered at eight o'clock."

spirit in the work-shop. "Good Heavens! Did he drink any thought she knew me."

the tin. Eight are helplessly drunk- your life in lighthouses." the others quarrelsome. The next thing will be a combined rush for the

knot that will make 'em tired." Brand's eyes glistened.

the weather is mending, too." "You don't mean that?"

He glanced up at the glass dome.

shouted gleefully: "Is it rain?" "Yes. I was fust going to summon only a trifle smaller."

can gather a large supply if it rains are not wholly unlike Enid." hard. Moreover, it will beat the sea down. Man alive, this may mean salvation. Tie those weaklings and summon ever sober man to help."

the kitchen.

close to hers as he cried:

"It's raining. No more canva.

whiskey. Get a hustle on with every empty vessei." He need not have been in such

whirl, however. When the shower came it did ...

last very long, and there were men difficulties in the way of garnerin the thrice blessed water. In the fire place, the lighthouse was express; designed to shoot off all such exter nal supplies; in the second, the total quantity obtained did not amount to more than half a gallon.

But it did a great deal of good in other ways. It brightened many faces, it caused the drunkards to be the chortling of the wind. securely trussed like plucked fowls "One of our visitors," shouted and dumped along the walls of the Brand, "and here we are gossiping as some degree of hope that the rescue the fireside." more successful.

When the rain cleared off, the moon flickered in a cloudy sky. This was a further omen of better fortune. Perhaps the jingling rhyme of Admiral Fitzroy's barometer was about to be justified:

"Long foretold, Long last; Short notice Soon past."

ight warning of its advent.

here is a chance, now. I won't deny much hat, but the Lea is treacherous."

gic under a change of wind."

ill. Although inured to hardship in itself in the tide-way. Here the tide at times; in that lay the danger whose but the instant they dropped off the the elemental strife, being of the is broken up into ocean rivers, sullen shadow was deepening the lines ledge of the gallery their weight stocky mariner race which holds the streams with boundaries as definite in the corners of Brand's eyes. gruff Atlantic in no dread, he had as the Thames. The main body Every hour, the officer on duty and The resultant plunge into the ocean never before been called on to eat sweeps up into the bottle-neck of the some men of the watch visited him to and Constance's farewell shrick were sodden bread, to drink condensed Channel. Another tributary comes report that all was well below. Some nothing more terrifying than the chill steam flavored with varnish, and to round the north of the Scilly Isles and of the less drunken mutineers blast and whistle of the air current chew sustenance from the rind of raw runs into the tidal stream again ex- were pitifully sober now: the others admitted by Brand. But Pyne did not bacon. These drawbacks, added to actly at this point. The result often were maudlin. Beyond the few words want to go to sleep again. He did not the lack of exercise and the constant is that whilst little pleasure boats can exchanged on this and kindred topics, like emerald-hued spirits which arwearing of clothes not yet dry, placed safely run out into the Bay from Pen- he was left alone with his thoughts ranged such unpleasant escapades. zance there is a race over the rock throughout the silent watch. Pyne He straightened his stiff limbs and

capital substitute for food, especially stern enthusiasm of triumphant youth. the stairway.

Miss Constance and Miss Enid, whilst rocks and silent headlands! the little ones themselves did not He had been happy, as men count thought you slept in the kitchen?" know that the she-dragons whom happiness, during the decades. No "No, Mrs. Vansittart," he said.

hazarded, between puffs.

sternly demanded. "What do you sust that didn't signify being tied to a long- fixed in one aspect. Whether in time for a chat."

"An idler, eh? You do not strike me even dreaded.

"It's the fact, nevertheless. My point. He knew that the drama of the grandfather was pleased to invest a Gulf Rock was now filling the colfew dollars in real estate on the sheep umns of newspapers all over the farm where Manhattan Avenue now world. He and his beloved girls stands. My uncle has half; my mother would be written about, discussed, dehad the other half."

"Are both of your parents dead?" "Yes, years ago. Lost at sea, too, gized by wide-awake editors eager to on my father's yacht"

"What a terrible thing!" that. I was only six years old at the in grave danger. Death confronted time. My uncle lost his wife and them-death at once extraordinary child, too, when the Esmeralda went and ghastly. No tyrant of the Middle door opened. Brand caught a fleeting "Why not? Hell may break loose down. It nearly killed him. I never Ages, with all its paraphernalia for "Who was that?" he called thought he would marry again, but I wringing truth or lies out of cringing "Who was that?" he asked.

hing of a dispute when the watch "Probably. By the way, now that you mention it, Mrs. Vansittart wish-"Things are worse now. One of the ed to see me yesterday. I could not men found a gallon of methylated spare a moment so I sent her a civil message. She told Constance that she

"Hardly likely," smiled Pyne, "il en to avoid for over twenty years. "He and his mates have emptied you have passed nearly the whole of

husband's name, many years ago."

"But why did not the second officer | "She is a nice woman in some prise visit. ways," said Pyne reflectively. "Not "It is an insane freak of fortune," in Mrs. Vansittart's explanation of her "He thought you had troubles quite my sort, perhaps, but a lady all he muttered, "so incomprehensible, so enough. If he could depend on the the time. She is not an American utterly out of focus with common thought about the limit there. She remainder of the crowd he would rope Came to the States about '90, I think events, that if I were a superstitious thought she would find the lighthouse the sinners. Says he knows a slave and lost her hubby on a ranch in Cali man, I should regard it as betokening keeper alone. The ready deduction fornia. Anyhow, the old man is dead the approach of some great epoch in presented itself that when she did enstuck on her, and they ought to hit it my life. Surely a merciful Providence "The fools," he said, "and just as off well together. The Vansittart you would not bring my girls here to subknew didn't happen to marry a rela ject them to the lingering torture of

"No. He was a mere acquaintance.' of it further. That way lies madness.' "Odd thing," ruminated Pyne. "It Heavy drops were pattering on it; has just occurred to me that she re led soul on the rock which divined they looked like spray, but Pyne sembles your daughter,-your elder daughter,—not so much in face as in Mrs. Vansittart, even at this moment, style. Same sort of graceful figure,

the watch to help in filling every ves- "Such coincidences often happen in sel. By spreading canvas sheets we the human family. For instance, you down to stand flattery.'

"Likeness is often a matter of environment. Characteristics, manner to see her father before she stretched skin quite as sensibly as they are conher weary limbs on the hard floor of ferred by heredity. Take the ploughman's son and rear him in a royal pai-She never knew exactly what took ace, turn the infant prince into a peaplace. It might have been politeness, sant, and who shall say, when they The three quick flashes of the Seven but it felt uncommonly like a squeeze. reach man's estate, 'This is the true Stones Lightship were very clear. That and Pyne's face was extraordinaril; King.' You will remember it was was a good sign. The wind came from said of the Emperor Augustus: 'Urbem that quarter and, blustering though i lateritiam invenit, marmoream reli- was, driving gigantic waves before i quit.' 'He found the city brick, he left into the loud embrace of the reef, it it marble.' The same noble result may maintained the good promise of the be obtained in every healthy child last few hours. properly educated."

the manner of his friend's speech.

then?" he asked. way when deeply moved "Thank God, yes!" he cried.

A faint hoot came to them through

operations of the next day might be He hurried to the gallery, putting light interior of the service-room. Its on an oil-akin quat

quoth Pyne to himself as he followed, the inebriate stupor which crouched This time it was the Falcon alone, beneath. If he and those committed and she signaled with a lamp that it to his charge were to be saved, either was deemed best to defer active op the sea must be stilled or another erations until the following afternoon. miracle of the loaves and fishes en-The tide at dawn would not suit.

turned to the grateful shelter of the the din of howling wind and ceaseless

And the hurricane had given but o'clock. The youngster needed no arch of the heavens. Men said the "I feel it in my bones that we shall ingly quick time. There is a supper- it might not be so! Il be as frisky as lambs to-morrow," less hunger which keeps people awake When Brand went out, the sudden Pyne, when he joined Brand af at night with a full larder in the house. rush of cold air through the little door r the scurry caused by the rain had The crude article differs from the cul- leading to the balcony aroused Pyne. must not be too sanguine. hungers of necessity cannot sleep too awakened from a seriously vivid

Harbor, in Maine, where a mighty big enough nutriment to maintain life. to hover over the rock by a green imp sea can kick up in a very few hours, There was no reason why any, even seated in an absurdly smell boat. have seen it go down again like ma- the most delicate, should be in real They were solemnly advised by danger during the next forty-eight other gnomes, imps with sparkling, "That is quite reasonable. Any or- hours. But scientific reasoning and toad-like eyes, to entrust themselves night. For one thing Mr. Emmett fell dinary commotion has room to spread the animal instincts of mankind clash to this precarious means of escape,

Again, there were ominous whist ship." Brand lent him. The tobacco was a looked forth on the world with the head and shoulders emerging out of

This arrangement was to be kept a at his feet and withdraw his grief and with the floor. strict secret from all especially from his talents to the seclusion of lonely | She uttered a little gasp of surprise.

condensed milk, retained for their ex- of the girls into delightful womanhood But what in the name of goodnesswas an increasing joy to him, and it "I was restless," explained the lady whirlpool of events in the very hour screamed aloud. How peaceful you "It may be so, but I like the ser- when their domesticity seemed to be are here. Where is Mr. Brand?" the most assured. The changeful "Guess he's gone outside to squint "Just so. I was never so happy as moods of the elements found no cound at the weather. But come right in. surely happen 'ere many days had he say?" which he at any rate, abhorred and steps and sit down you can ask him

He harbored no delusions on this by black and white artists, and eulo- mystery is there about it?" lic mind.

"It must have been something like On the rock they were undoubtedly Oh-" wretches, had devised such a fate as threatened if the inconstant sea should choose to render the reef altogether unapproachable for many days. Yet, if help came, he and those dear to him were already steeped in unavoidable vague disabilities which he had striv- know you at all."

And all this because one fierce gale, out of the many he had endured, "I did not quite mean to convey that sprang into being at a moment when impression. I knew a man of her late his mates were incapacitated and his daughters happened to pay him a sur-

hunger and thirst. I must not think

There was at least one other troubsome sinister portent in the storm. was staring into the black void with questioning eyes.

He resolutely threw back his head "Some women," he said, "are made as if he would hurl into outer dark up of contradictions. She is one. tion just then, he climbed to the trim- over her emotions, and the wreck ming stage merely to find relief it broke it. Now, for my part, I like a met Constance on the stairs, coming and social rank, soak in through the mechanical action. He carefully ex woman with a clear soul, one in whose amined the adjustment, and, to judge eyes you can catch the glint of the how the weather was shaping, went inner crystal." out into the gallery to look at the distant lights.

Seeking the comparative shelter of The college-bred youth had not en the east side, he gazed steadily at the can pursed his lips. tered into any general conversation Liazrd. Its two fixed electric beams, with Brand before. He had the tact nearly in line with the Gulf Rock, were woman once in his life," he mused. now to conceal his astonishment at dull and watery. A local squall of "It must have been Constance's mothrain was sweeping down from the he manner of his friend's speech. rain was sweeping down from the er, and that is why he doesn't believe 'You fling heredity to the winds, land. Changeable, threatening, unset in heredity. Well, I guess he's right." tled-the meteorologists might apply Brand rose to his feet, as was hir any of these terms to the prevalent

Far out in the Channel he saw the door, he might have found cause for more disturbing reflections. She was steamers. Blow high or low, mails crying softly, with her face hidden in twinkling mast-head lights of several must travel and vessels put to sea. her hands. On such a night, at other times, he entrance passage, and it gave Brand though snugly seated in arm-chairs at would re-enter the lighthouse with a like aspect. Now he dreaded the bril-

We must win through, and I guess garish aspect ill accorded with the I'll play ball with my father-in-law," patient misery, the useless repinings,

She went off, and the two men re There, alone on the gallery, amidst plaint of the waves, he seemed to be Brand farbade further talk. Pyne apart, cut off from the sufferings withmust rest now and relieve him at three in. He lifted his eyes to the sombre feather-bed: he was asleep in amaz- age of miracles had passed. Pray God

tured one so greatly that the man who That young gentleman was rudely dream. He fancied that Constance Thus far, the inhabitants of the and he were clinging to the tail of an "This reef licks creation. At Bar lighthouse had been given quite enormous kite, which had been made

the youngster's stalwart figure and He was about to feel in a pocket Again, there were ominous whis ship."

the youngster's statwart ligure and for his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor his pipe—he experienced the worst firm, handsome face, Brand found himfor "I have given my best years to it." self reviewing the buried years. He pangs of hunger after waking in such Pyne was smoking a pipe, one which thought of the days when he, too, fashion-when he saw a woman's

as he had established a private under- Long-forgotten ghosts were resur- At first he thought it was Constance standing with Elsie and Mamie that rected, shattered ideals built up again. and he wondered why she had mufthey were to waylay him when possi- He wondered, if the decades rolled fled her face in the deep collar of a ble and nibble a piece of biscuit he back, would he decide, a second time, cloak, but the visitor paused irresoto abandon the fine career which lay lutely when her waist was on a level

"You, Charlie?" she cried. Pyne feared so greatly gave them sur- cloud had arisen to mar the complete am assistant-keeper and I am here reptitious doses from the last tin of content of his life. The blossoming most all the time with Mr. Brand.

pect? Are you fool enough to imanosed oiler for the remainder of my storm or calm the contrary would "How does he know me? What did reasonable prices.

so many years of association with the she kept the high collar over her -dey are chokin' mit Mr. Pyne all der "I hold a certificate, just for fun. fickle ocean she should play such a mouth and cheeks. Pyne could only day. Dey can'd do dat und be hungry, I had a mechanical twist in me and trick on him and his daughters, en see her eyes, and the alarmed light gave it play. But I am an idler by pro- fold them with perils, snatch them that leaped into them increased his from the quiet pleasures of the life astonishment at her unexpected pres-

all those things yourself."

"Where you speaking of me to "I did happen to mention you."

"And he said he knew me?"

"No, ma'am. He said nothing of scribed in fulsome language, pictured the sort. But, for mercy's sake, what "Mystery! None whatever. I was make much of a topic dear to the pub mistaken. I have never met him. came now to explain that to him.

She dived suddenly as the gallery

Pyne had found his pipe and was filling it with tobacco.

"Mrs. Vansittart," he answered. "Paying her long-deferred visit, I suppose. She chose a curious hour." "So I thought. But she just popped notoriety, bringing in its train certain her head in to tell you that she didn't

Brand smiled. "Poor lady!" he said. "She, like the rest of us, is perturbed and uneasy. I imagine she is of a somewhat hysterical temperament."

"That's so," agreed Pyne. There were puzzling discrepancies

third person to be present at the in-That Constance's father had no

it was not his affair, and he declined to trouble his head about Mrs. Van- On your Way. sittart's vagaries.

So the young philosopher lit Ms pipe and delivered a dictum on the

"They are rare," said Brand. "I suppose so. Indeed, it used to be a mere indeal of mine, built up from books. But they exist, and they are worth looking for."

He waited, lest perchance the other man should take the cue thus offered, but Brand, for the twentieth time, was poring over the records of the days which followed the hurricane reported by a former keeper. The Ameri-

"He has had a bad time with a Had he seen Mrs. Vansittart cowering on her knees outside her bedroom

"Oh, I dare not, I dare not!" she moaned. "I am the most miserable woman in the world. It would have been better if I had gone down with

Continued on page 11.

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"Are you a marine engineer?" in passed. But life was a different thing. Mrs. Vansittart pressed her left quired Brand, with some show of in How came it that at the very close of hand to her breast. With the other We are sole agent for the McPherson "Lightning Hitch," the most up-todate skating shoe in Canada. They are perfect in style and workmanship.

TERMS: CASH OR EGGS gusted officer. "There is food here for three people. They have fed eighty-one of us for two days and will be at any rate abborred and stops and sit down you can ask him."

The lighthouse-keeper laughed, so they had planned for the future and thrust upon them, even if they estated that if you just walk up four more gratified. Polite disbelief may be a caped with their lives, a publicity of the political political and sit down you can ask him.

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"Holy gee!" said Pyne, "I'm too run ness the gibbering phantom which whispered these words of foreboding. She is offen a matter of en. Although the lamp needed no attentions. She is offen. But thought nothing could phaze her. But there must be a sort of society crust BURNETT & COOPER



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